

[20th August 1925]

*A.—(a) Yes.**(b) Does not arise.*

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—“ Arising out of the answer given to this question, clause (a), will the Government be pleased to state whether it is the District Magistrate that arranges for these lectures or any private enterprise ? ”

11-15 a.m. The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ It is private enterprise.”

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—“ Then may I take it that the Government have not taken any steps in this direction and is it not the duty of the Government to arrange for these lectures ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ It is the duty of the Government wherever it is possible and wherever moral lecturers are available to arrange for such lectures.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Are these lecturers paid or are their services purely honorary ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Honorary.”

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—“ There are certain instances where although private gentlemen came forward to deliver moral lectures the Government did not take advantage of their services.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Some how or other in Trichinopoly nobody came forward.”

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—“ There are some four or five people ready to give lectures to the prisoners provided they are given permission to do so. But the pity is that Government did not give these people permission.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ If my hon. Friend writes to me on the subject, I shall look into the whole question.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ Is there any Discharged Prisoners Aid Society in Cuddalore or Trichinopoly and will it not be advisable for the Government to entrust these societies with this kind of work ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I will consider the suggestion of the hon. Member.”

Labour.

Recruitment of labour from South Kanara, Malabar, etc.

* 208 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the approximate number of labourers who were recruited from each of the districts of South Kanara, Malabar, Coimbatore, Salem and Nilgiris during the three years ending 31st December 1924 for coffee, tea, rubber and other plantations—

- (i) in those five districts ;
- (ii) in Mysore, Travancore and Cochin States ;

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- (b) how many of these belonged—
 - (i) to the depressed classes;
 - (ii) to the Indian Christian community in South Kanara;
- (c) how many of these plantations have been visited by the Labour Commissioner or any other official of the Labour Department or by the Collectors of the district and their subordinates and other officers concerned during the last three years;
- (d) whether Government have received any reports from them as to the conditions of housing and comforts of the labourers from the above-mentioned districts employed in the plantations;
- (e) what are the conditions under which the labourers from those districts are housed and accommodated and cared for so far as sanitary arrangements, amenities and comforts of life are concerned; and
- (f) whether it is a fact that a large number of labourers are enticed from South Kanara by labour agents with hopes of high wages and comforts of life from South Kanara to plantations on the hills in Malabar, Nilgiris, and Coimbatore districts which are falsified in actualities of life and that a considerable number of them return broken down in health and in extreme poverty?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

- (c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (b) of question No. 683 asked by him at the meeting of the Legislative Council held in March last. The Commissioner of Labour recently visited the Anamalai plantations in the Coimbatore district.
- (d) Yes; so far as the conditions on the Anamalais are concerned.
- (e) Extracts from the report of the Commissioner of Labour regarding housing and sanitation are placed on the table of the House.^a
- (f) No.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“As regards the answer given to clause (f) of this question, viz., ‘no’, may I know what is the basis on which, whether it is on a report or an inquiry made by the Government, they have given this answer? As far as Anamalais are concerned, there is some report to the contrary.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“From the report the Government have in their possession.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“Is it not desirable that some specific statement is made on the point stating that the Collector concerned or some other official was asked to make an inquiry and he has reported in this manner?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“Yes, I have done so.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“As regards clause (e) if the report of the Labour Commissioner says that conservancy is very bad and the

^a Printed as Appendix IV on pages 396-397 infra.

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Director of Public Health makes any recommendation for carrying out improvements, may I know whether the Government intend to take any direct action in the matter?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I shall consider the suggestion made by the hon. Member."

Working hours, etc., of labourers.

* 209 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state, with reference to the answer given to question No. 683 on 27th March 1925, volume XXIII, page 779,—

- (a) how many days in a month and for how many hours a day on the average the labourers work;
- (b) whether cottages or huts are provided for such labourers at the cost of the employers;
- (c) if so, how much accommodation is provided for each labourer with or without family;
- (d) what arrangements are made in the several plantations for the medical treatment of the labourers and at whose cost; and
- (e) if answers on these points cannot be given without calling for elaborate statistics from several plantations, whether Government will be pleased to collect them as soon as convenient for being placed before the House?

A.—(a) The Government have no information as to the number of days the labourers work in a month. They work for eight or nine hours a day.

(b) Yes.

(c) Four persons are usually accommodated in a room 12 ft. \times 12 ft. Each family is given a separate room.

(d) In some of the larger estates hospitals and dispensaries are provided, while smaller estates utilize the institutions in the adjoining estates. The labourers are given treatment at the cost of the plantations.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I know whether the Government have made any rules with regard to the provision of cottages or huts for the coolies?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"The Government have made rules and the fixing of 12 \times 12 feet as the dimension of each room satisfies the rules."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"The Government think that a room of 12 \times 12 feet will satisfy the needs of four persons."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Is there any rule that if the number of persons in a family exceeds 4, they are given more than one room?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sometimes."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I know why sometimes it is done and sometimes it is not?"